



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden. G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN. Lancs. BB3 2LZ. England. 0254 703948

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday/Thursday 9pm EDT on 3.682 Net Control op varies. **Slow Ragchewing Group:** W8BI 8pm EDT Wed on 3.720
Century Award Net: Sunday 2000Z on 14.058MHz (KE3NVW/4JTU NCS's!) **Sunday QSO Party** 2300Z on 7.058 MHz W3ERU is NCS

NA QSL Manager: Brian N8IAG 3050 Rochester Rd Dryden MI 48428 PSE keep a couple SASEs on file to get your cards
NA Award Manager: Lee N9NVV 4530 N 15th Street Terre Haute IN 47805

Subs / renewals: \$15 US to Nancy WZ8C POB 47 Hadley MI 48440-0047 Also contact WZ8C for sample newsletters/ applications

Club Supplies: Irene WO8E 25206 Hayes Roseville MI 48066 FISTS pins \$3.50 Logo stickers 200/\$5.00 Patches \$1.50 including postage

Listings: Send SASE plus loose stamp to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac St Longview WA 98632

Activities: Pete K8OUA 5115 N Park Ave Warren OH 44481 Email Pete at 210_100_LIB@neomin.ohio.gov

PSE keep watch on the Novice bands and the frequencies ending in ".058"

North American Memo

by Nancy WZ8C

Hello North American FISTS! Dayton 1996 is history, and a memorable weekend it was! **WO8E** and I got to Dayton on Thursday, got checked into the hotel and the HamVention with no problem. Weather looked threatening, and sprinkled a bit, but since our FISTS booth is inside, the wx didn't matter much. Each year we get smarter about what to do for the NEXT year that will make things easier for us, and this time we remembered to bring a hand truck. That made it much easier to unload the boxes of handouts, sample newsletters, signs and miscellaneous that go into setting up the booth. We finished up about 7 PM had a quick dinner and headed back to the hotel to rest up for Show-Time!!

Friday, the flea market opens early, but the inside exhibitors don't open until noon, so we had plenty of time to leisurely get to the arena and put the finishing touches on the booth. It's a very exciting time, knowing we are soon going to be having eyeball QSOs with FISTS friends we haven't seen in a year, as well as meeting new ones. At quarter to noon, a voice booms from the intercom that the doors will be opening to the public in fifteen minutes....

The first FISTS members to stop by the booth were John **K8LJG**, Steve **N1KLP** and Craig **WB8QZK**. Then Greg **N8ROR** came by to renew and tell us some of his "tall tales". Longtime FISTS member Jack **WB2FXK** stopped in and then the Cowlitiz Washington contingent found us! It really made the weekend special to meet Ed **N7CFA**, Stu **K7WF**, Randy **NU7D** and Dave **KB7SVA**. There are just too many to list, can you believe by the end of the weekend we had about 110 FISTS stop by the booth?! Geo **G3ZQS** finally showed up (I was starting to get worried, but I should have known he would stop by the Pub before coming in to the booth, hi). A wonderful surprise was a visit from three Ireland FISTS, Dave **GI0PCU**, Bill **GI3MMF** and Keith **GI0SSA**. They had been to Dayton a couple years ago, and it was great to see them again. Tony **A45ZN** from the Sultanate of Oman also stopped by. I don't know where the Sultanate of Oman is, but I found out it's a 25 hour trip!

We had a steady flow of traffic all day, till we closed the booth at 6 PM. Then it we grabbed a quick dinner, freshened up and made it to the FISTS Party on the top floor of Stouffers. The party had started at 7 PM, but there were only about a dozen folks there when **WO8E** and I arrived about 8 PM. By 9 we had about 25 in attendance, and the Washington group gave a nice talk about how they started their Cowlitiz FISTS group, and presented Geo and me with a beautiful certificate making us "honorary Cowlitiz FISTS members". Thanks guys!!

Around 9 PM another group of FISTS arrived, I think they had been at the QRP dinner. By the time I left a little after 10, there were about 45-50 FISTS who had stopped by the party. Geo, Brian **N8IAG** and Dave **N6MLW** stayed till about 1 AM, and I hear the Irish FISTS didn't get back to their room until 3 AM!

Saturday started early, the inside exhibits opened at 8 that morning. Things were going great - lots of FISTS, lots of renewals and lots of new FISTS signing up!

Then we got the very sad news that John **N8FU** had become a **Silent Key** on Friday afternoon, at the age of 56. He had been mowing the lawn, in a hurry to get to Dayton - the wx was hot and humid - and he had a heart attack and died at home. That was a shock! We were looking forward to seeing John again, every year he helps his XYL Carol with the YLRL /Buckeye Belles booth which is two booths down from the FISTS booth. John was our FISTS QSL manager and I think just about everyone in the club has heard from **N8FU** in one way or another - he holds the record with EIGHT Century Awards! I was chatting with Lee **N9NVV**, our Century Award Manager about that feat and he commented on how John was such a terrific ambassador for our club as well as CW. He will surely be missed. If you would like to send a note or card to Carol, the address is 4441 Andreas Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45211.

Sunday, things settled down and traffic was down to a trickle. All in all, we handed out about 500 newsletters and 800 applications. It was a very successful weekend and a good time was had by all who attended - I hope the sunburns from walking around the flea market weren't too painful!!

Geo made it back to England safe and sound, tho a bit "shattered". Make plans to join us next year!

Welcome to New FISTS

2399 AA1FC Al in Windsor CT (KA7NDX)
 2398 KF6DCU Dave in Laguna Hills CA (WA7MMG)
 2397 K5KV Benny in Baton Rouge LA (WA3WEE)
 2396 WP4LNY Julio in San Juan PR (WB2FXK)
 2395 N3SUS Ed in Forest Hill MD
 2394 WA6SBB Galen in Lodi California (N1QLF)
 2393 N9RJ Russ in Nashville IN (AA9PI)
 2392 N3CZB Lou in Doylestown PA (WB2FXK)
 2391 KF8UE Alvin in Cincinnati OH
 2390 KK4KF Bill in Shalimar FL (K3DC)
 2389 AA8PQ Neal in Rogers City MI (WB2FXK)
 2388 WA9FJZ Gene in Reelsville IN (WB2FXK)
 2387 N0ZHB Tom in Pittsburg KS (WB2FXK)
 2386 KE4UYS Bert in Spring Hill FL (K4HXM)
 2385 AA8VK Gary in Fenton MI (K8MEG)
 2384 KB8TVZ Bob in Holly MI (K8MEG)
 2383 KC8BYV Charles in Warren OH (K8OUA)
 2382 KB7KX Gavin in Dittmer MO (WO8E)
 2381 KE4LJS Jay in Vass NC
 2380 KE4KGB Joyce in Vass NC (Dayton)
 2379 W4ZC Jack in Silver Spring MD (K4KYO)
 2378 K4KYO Tony in Arlington VA (WB2EZG)
 2377 AA9KH Jay in Chicago IL (WO8E)
 2376 KC8AQJ Barb in Rochester Hills MI (KG8QT)
 2375 WD4KWW John Rochester Hills MI (KG8QT)
 2374 KB8VFJ Randy in Jeromne MI (Dayton)
 2373 KE4NGS David in Fairfield OH (Dayton)
 2372 KE8QT Jim in Bloomfield Hills MI (KG8QT)
 2371 KB8MBJ Bill in Holly MI (WZ8C)
 2370 W4VC Hal in Fairfax VA (Dayton)
 2369 KB8ZVD Walt in Coloma MI (Dayton)
 2368 N9OUH Paulette in Madison WI (Dayton)
 2367 KD3AO Carter in Paoli PA (Dayton)
 2366 W1WFZ Ted in Coventry RI (Dayton)
 2365 N9SSG Dave in St Charles IL (Dayton)
 2364 AB0AM Phil in Edwards CO (Dayton)
 2363 K4QFK Pete in Fayetteville NC (Dayton)
 2362 KF9FU Carl in Harvey IL (Dayton)
 2361 WJ4P Randy in Summerville SC (Dayton)
 2360 KC8DGU Tom in Hamilton OH (WZ8C)
 2359 KA8RIQ Gary in Huber Heights OH (Dayton)
 2358 N9AKE Rod in Aurora IL (Dayton)
 2357 N3MVL Steve in Hagerstown MD
 2356 KB2UZY Bryan in Springfield MA
 2355 KE6UQK Chris in Cambria CA
 2354 AC6NV Ken in Rosemead CA
 2353 WK3P Herman in Arnold MD
 2352 KG2FH Kenny in Flushing NY
 2351 N2YXC George in Rensselaer NY (N2USK)
 2350 pending
 2349 KC7BHU Gene in Kansas City KS (N9LGP)
 2348 KB2PLW in Trumansburg NY (WB5ZJN)
 2347 N3UVR Chris in Scranton PA (N6HCS)
 2346 AD4PE Jimmy in Antwerp OH (KG8UM)
 2345 N9WKE Bruce n Champaign IL
 2344 KD3TY Don in Hagerstown MD (W3BRZ)
 2343 KO6Z Herb in San Marcos CA
 2342 N2REM Ray in Old Bethpage NY (KF2TP)

2341 KE4UKY Matt in Charlottesville VA (KE4UKX)
 2340 WB3CPG Bruce in Arbovale WV (KA1IIQ)
 2339 KC4VZK Matt in Virginia Beach VA (K4HXM)
 2338 WL7KV Gary in Dallas OR (NY2V)
 2237 VE3FAL Fred in Thunder Bay ONT (73 mag)
 2336 KA0GZO Rob in St Paul MN (N6HCS)
 2335 W5LKL Buck in Shell Knob MO (KB8NTE)
 2334 KC7NBM Paul in Spokane WA
 2333 AC5HL Guy in Arlington TX
 2332 AE4JG Mike in Fairfax VA
 2331 KB2TWK George in Cedar Brook NJ
 2330 Call pending Jacqui in PVE CA
 2329 WA6HXM Peter in PVE CA
 2328 KF2MU Otto in Cutchogue NY
 2327 KB0UDM David in Parkville MO (WZ8C)
 2326 W8WFB Lee in Greenford OH (WB2EZG)
 2325 K9JXW Jim in Wausau WI (KE4QZB)
 2324 WA3WEE Ron in Katy TX (N2PLE/N4VEF)
 2323 WB8DPZ Marv in Dayton OH (W8MVN)
N8RXW Chuck is now **AA8VS**
KE4UAR Ben is really **KE4UAQ**
KB9KFR is now **KB9NMU**

WB4VFN upgraded from General to Extra in one test session "Oh What A Feeling" he says! It is one of the best feelings, isn't it Richard! When I left the exam room after passing my Extra, the VE's had to remind me not to hit my head on the top of the door opening, I was floating about 3 feet off the ground, hi!

Congrats to Elliott **KC4LHZ**. He says "Miracles will never cease" because at the age of near 70 he passed his 20WPM and theory. He's going to keep the same callsign because it's been lucky for him! That's something to be proud of Elliot!

SILENT KEY JACK BAKER NA7X

I never had the pleasure of a QSO with Jack NA7X, so his friend Harvey KI7EG was kind enough to tell us a little bit about him:

Jack will be missed. He was a wonderful giving person. His wife of 54 years predeceased him last August. He was an active ham right up to the end, and an avid cw operator, and supporter. He began his ham radio avocation as a very young man in Canada by building his own gear from parts he was able to find in the area. When Canada entered the War with Germany, he enlisted in the Canadian Navy and served as Chief Radio Operator. He was wounded, and had a ship sink under him off of France. He and his wife had two children. He was a charter member of the local radio club, Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. He built many lasting friendships around the world through ham radio with some schedules lasting 25 years.

Northeastern Ohio / Western Pennsylvania FISTS Group

It all started with Nancy and her Michigan group setting up for Field Day. The folks in Michigan have had a FISTS Field Day for four years now. Then came the Cowlitz FISTS group way out on the West Coast. These guys have a serious group going, more power to them! I understand that they did the Spring Sprint as a FISTS group and may do Field Day as well. Now, look out for the NEOWPA FISTS group. NEOWPA?? What's that? Try Northeast OH/Western PA FISTS. OK, OK, maybe the name could be improved upon, but we can always do that later. Right now I'm looking for FISTS in **northeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania** who would like to help out with some common efforts. What sort of common efforts?

To start with, Field Day. Right now we have what promises to be a 3A setup, all QRP / battery operated. If you're not already involved in a club Field Day effort, and live within a couple hours drive of Warren, Ohio, join us. If you've never participated in Field Day you're probably missing one of the top weekends of the ham calendar. You'd be more than welcomed with open arms. Interested, get in touch with me.

Of course, getting the word out about Morse and FISTS is another way that a group can help. What better way than to set up a table at a local hamfest. NEOWPA FISTS will do just that. If you're in Western PA, you might look up the FISTS booth at the Breeze-shooters Hamfest coming up in Butler, Pennsylvania, on June 2. We have a booth reserved that is supposed to be next to the ARRL booth. What would be really great would be to have plenty of FISTS around to help staff the booth. So, if you'll be at the Breeze-shooters and can afford an hour or so to talk to hams about CW and FISTS, let me know and I'll get you on the schedule. Of course, if you can't help out but will be there anyhow, just stop in and say hello.

Later on in the hamfest season we'll be setting up a FISTS booth at the Warren (OH) hamfest on August 18. The same thing applies, if you'll be there why not join us at the FISTS booth. The more FISTS that show up at these things the better off we all are.

Finally, not everyone is fortunate enough to live in northeastern Ohio or Western Pennsylvania. Wherever you are, why not get together with FISTS in your area and start to work together for the benefit of not only FISTS, but of your hobby as well. Start off by getting involved in some CW contests such as Field Day. Why not set up a table or a booth at a local hamfest to advertise Morse and FISTS??

Finally, finally, the NEOWPA FISTS group sends out a challenge to all other FISTS groups around the country — we are issuing a challenge for Field Day to all FISTS groups. Only the CW portions count, and if there are non-FISTS involved, FISTS must be in the majority. Overall score is what we're looking at, however you get the points, as long as they are CW. Drop me a line — Pete Kozup, **K8OUA**

NEW FISTS QSL MANAGER

As you read on the first page, John **N8FU** is a Silent Key. Brian **N8IAG** is taking over as QSL manager. Send your outgoing DX and NA FISTS QSL cards to 3050 Rochester Rd, Dryden MI 48428. Send him a couple SASEs to have on file so you can get any cards that may have been sent to you. Please be patient, as it may take some time to make the transition and get the current cards/envelopes to Brian.

INTRODUCTION TO MEMBERS

Since I have just joined the FISTS Club (#2324) I feel that I need to introduce myself to the other members of the club.

I was originally licensed as a novice (WN3WEE) at age 16 in 1974 in Altoona PA. Currently my age is 38 years and I hold an advanced ticket with the callsign **WA3WEE**.

My dad (NS3D) was in the air force and I had spent my childhood moving all over the nation and even spent some time in Germany. I had lived in Altoona PA for a total of about 7 years. After attending Penn State University, I moved to TX in 1980 where I began my career with the State Police (Texas department of Public safety). Currently I work as a sergeant/investigator in the Narcotics Division. As I got my career off the ground and began to raise a family, I'm married now with five children, ham radio took a back seat. About a year ago my father gave me a Kenwood TS130 which sparked my interest back into ham radio.

Since then I have been having a great time. About 99% of my contacts are on CW. As the QSL cards began to come in I kept noticing several of them had a little gold sticker with FISTS CW CLUB on them. Two stations I had worked, **N2PLE** and **N4VEF**, sent me information and that was all I needed.

I really believe in what the club is doing and what FISTS stands for. I have met several licensed amateur radio ops in the Houston area who know absolutely no Morse code and have no intention of ever learning it. It appears that this is a continuing trend and I am very pleased that FISTS is doing what it can to encourage greater use of Morse Code in Ham Radio. I only wish I had known about FISTS earlier as I strongly believe in it's goals. I'm looking forward to working as many members of this fine organization as possible and will do my best to encourage other hams to join as well.

Hope to BCNU, Best 73 Ron **WA3WEE**

Wake of the Wirelesman

Charles sent for this book, only to have his envelope returned marked "Forwarding order expired mail only forwarded for 12 months". Anyone have any updated info? Charles's oldest daughter is getting married June 8, so he's pretty busy, but he plans to put up an outside antenna after the wedding, so look for him! Let us know when you're on Email with your new computer, Charles!

MICHIGAN AREA FISTS FIELD DAY

This year is shaping up to be the best FISTS Field Day ever! I say that every year, but it's true, hi! We will once again be at the Dryden High School football field. It is a really great location even tho it might be a bit of a drive for some - but no matter where we held FD, it would be a hike for some people since we come from all over the state. I can't promise the fireworks the City of Dryden coincidentally put on like last year, but we are going to have a terrific BBQ. Joe **W8CYG** has promised to bring his grill and we are planning to have a family style pot luck Saturday night. We are also going to have a Novice tent and what is shaping up to be two operating stations run by battery power.

We need lots of help - operators, loggers, visitors so come on out! Bring the family out for the picnic on Saturday evening, the more the merrier. It's off of Dryden Rd on Rochester Rd between M-53 and M-24 and I-69 on the North. Lots of room for camping if you want to stay all weekend. NO RAIN or mosquitos this year, just lots of stars and fireflies! And of course, that sweet sound of CW wafting thru the warm breeze. I hope you can make it! (we have to beat the OH/PA group, so let's try to do a LITTLE bit of operating this year, hi.)

If you have any questions or need more directions give me a call at 810-797-4046, or 797-5388 or email at nancy@tir.com. I hope you can make it to a Field Day in your own area - - if not, start one of your own! If you would like a list of FISTS in your area, call me and I'll get one to you.

The FISTS Novice Roundup Results by Pete K8OUA

For those of you who have been waiting, here are the results of the first FISTS Novice Roundup. Eleven logs were received and of those only three were from Novices/ Tech+. So, obviously, we need to spend much more effort in publicizing the event if we decide to run it again in the future. It'd be very easy to shrug our collective shoulders do as the ARRL has done, and write this event off. I think that'd be very sad, because it does offer newcomers and those with little CW experience a great opportunity to get involved in something. But, we (meaning mainly me, I think!) need to work much harder at getting this event going next year. Anyhow, here are the overall results and comments.

Novice/Tech Plus entrants:

Call	Name	QSOpts	Mults	Total
1) KB8OZV/T	-- Rose Lubbers	134	25	3350
2) KE4ZQD/T	-- Johnny Wolfe	110	16	1760
3) KB3BFQ/N	-- Eric Bowser	107	15	1605

Rose, who is not a FISTS member, did a great job digging out contacts. Her score was only 15 points less than the combined total of the next two entrants, both of whom are FISTS members. And, these three were well above the totals for any higher status entrants. Well done to all three. You will each receive two FISTS certificates, one for either first, second, or third place, and a participants certificate.

Non-Novice or Tech entrants:

Call and Name	QSO Pts	Mult	Total
1) N8FU -- John Hugentober	82	16	1316
2) WA2BQI -- Bud Peterson	61	12	732
3) W6DDB -- Bill Welsh	39	9	351
4) KA8OQF -- Charlie Cotterman	30	9	270
5) WZ8C -- Nancy Kott	16	3	48
6) K8OUA -- Pete Kozup	15	3	45
7) K3WWP -- John Shannon	16	1	16
8) N9ZNF -- Gerald Winschel	3	1	3

Comments -- "This is my first contest. I hope I did all necessary for entry. I got my FISTS number the day after the contest; # 2129" -- **KE4ZQD**; "I had trouble finding much contest activity other than a few members. I thought with the amount of people in the club it would have been a better turnout. I've read . . . that hams want more younger hams to get into contesting . . . this contest was the ideal contest for me . . . (but) NO ACTIVITY. " -- **KB3BFQ**; "Most of other classes had no idea in the world what was going on . . . Felt like the Maytag repairman most of the time -- no answers to my CQs." -- **N8FU**; "This was a very relaxing contest . . . maybe you should let everyone work this contest for points . . . I will be back next year if you run it again." -- **WA2BQI**; "Next year we gotta PR this thing a lot more . . . We announced the contest at meetings, in the club newsletter, and over the air that the club site would be open specifically for nov / tech ops to give this a try, but nobody showed up . . . extremely disappointing." -- **KA8OQF**; "Well, we did try, but probably not hard enough, to advertise among the novice crowd -- let's not give up after one disappointing attempt -- see you next year." -- **K8OUA**; "As you can see I worked my neighbor, Eric, 4 times, and that was it . . . I did several hours of listening and calling CQ, with no results . . . I was rather disappointed in the turnout of FISTS members in the contest." -- **K3WWP**; "It is essential that FISTS gets NR contest data printed in the amateur radio magazines . . . I have many suggestions of changes which I think would greatly increase NR activity . . . Billy Lunt of ARRL would not make changes and the result was a continual decline in NR participation." -- **W6DDB**.

So, there you have it. This contest won't go away, though, and hopefully next year we'll improve on the turnout with better publicity. To all those who did participate, I say "thank you", and to the rest, I say "lets try it out next time -- you might enjoy it." 73 es GL Contesting, Pete K8OUA

COMPUTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Our North American FISTS group needs a Computer Chapter! So, we need someone with access to a computer to get it started. The task would involve maintaining the library of FISTS freeware and copying these programs for FISTS members who send a you a formatted disk. We only have a couple programs available at this time, a logging program written by Geo and a code practice program written by Art so it wouldn't be very time consuming. Any volunteers???

AB7F BOOTLEGGER, HARASSING FISTS

Can you believe it? There is an alleged bootlegger out there on the Novice portion of the 40 meter CW bands, harassing people, FISTS members in particular! It was brought to my attention by a FISTS member who copied **AB7F** sending profanity (actually taking the time to SPELL out swear words!) and saying not-so-nice things about FISTS members. Since I am an ARRL Official Observer, I sent a pink slip to the address in the callbook for the offending callsign. I got back a very nice letter from the son of **AB7F** telling me that his father is a Silent Key and he was quite distressed about someone who was obviously bootlegging his fathers callsign. He says his father was a ham for many years and was very proud of his call and it was very upsetting that someone is out there using it in such a terrible way. He also told me that he has been recently receiving QSL cards addressed to his father, as well as some letters telling him to clean up his act and stop being so nasty on the air! He has contacted the FCC and the ARRL, but they haven't done anything about it. To start to do anything, they need a paper trail that documents when, where and what this bootlegger is doing. He has been heard frequently on the 40 meter Novice band - if you hear him please write down as much information as you can and send it to me or your local Official Observer.

FISTS Slow Net

The FISTS Slow Net continues to do its share of moving the nation's traffic through the airwaves. Mind you, that share is pretty small, but we are still doing our bit. We've had a lot of small successes in the traffic business, and it's great to see how well some of our members have progressed in CW traffic handling. Are you interested in learning to handle traffic on a CW net? There ain't many of us doing it, and every new QNI helps. I've noticed on my Saturday and Sunday morning Ohio Sunrise Slow Net spot that many of our check-ins are FISTS members. Often, well over half of the check-ins are FISTS. I can identify people like Joe — **W8DYF**, Ken — **VA3KEW**, Marv — **WB8DPZ**, Ken — **WB8KQJ**, Vince — **K8LQM**, Norm — **N1NGM**, Sam — **KB8OOM**, Don — **N8JIW**, Sam — **WB5ZJN**, Al — **KC8BSC**, Bob — **KG8QO** all are FISTS, and each has checked into the Ohio Sunrise Slow Net at some time or another.

OK, OK, what's this got to do with the FISTS Slow Net, you ask? Well, the reason for starting the FISTS Slow Net was to encourage FISTS members to get onto one of their section nets, and to start passing traffic big time. Now, I know that this isn't everyone's cup of tea. Many regulars on FSN have told me that they have no intention of becoming serious traffic handlers, and that's fine. Often these folk check into FSN, and have traffic to put into the system, but just aren't interested in QNing their section nets. That's fine. But, it is interesting to note that the system does

appear to be working because it appears that some members of FSN do check into section nets (at least the Ohio Sunrise Slow Net) now and then.

Here are the totals for the past month or so —

April 19 — **N1NGM**, **VA3KEW**, **W4JTU**, **KE4HZM**, **KB2UDL** — QNI 6, QTC 2

April 24 — **VA3KEW**, **N1PVP**, **WB2FXK**, **KG8QO**, **AA0IQ**, **K8MEG**, **KB8WOL** — QNI 8, QTC 1

April 26 — **KB8WOL**, **KE4HZM**, **N8FU**, **KE4WCW**, **KF2TP**, **N1NGM**, **N1PVP** — QNI 8, QTC 2

May 1 — **N1PVP**, **KB8WOL**, **WB2FXK**, **KB8OOM**, **KF2TP**, **N8FU**, **KC8CKO**, **AA0IQ** — QNI 9, QTC 3

May 3 — **N8FU**, **VA3KEW**, **KE4HZM**, **KB8OOM**, **KB8WOL**, **WB9CIS** — QNI 7, QTC 2

May 8 — **WB9CIS**, **N2JBZ**, **WB8DPZ**, **N1RGP**, **AC5FY**, **KC5GXC** — QNI 7, QTC 1

May 10 — **VA3KEW**, **N1PVP**, **N1RGP**, **N8FU**, **WB8DPZ**, **WB2FXK** — QNI 7, QTC 0 (vy bad condx)
Total QNI 52, QTC 11, in 7 sessions.

Perhaps one of these evenings we'll see you on FSN. I hope so. We're there from 2100 Eastern Time every Tuesday and Thursday evening on or about 3682 KHz. Sometimes I'm late, and infrequently I just don't make it. If that happens, YOU, yes, that's YOU, are welcome to take the net, start it off and get it going. Till we CU on FSN, I'll say 73 es ARF. Pete **K8OUA**.

Weighting of Keyers

We received these responses to Don **WA6TMF**'s question about weight controls on keyers:

Saw the question from Dick **WA6TMF** in the Keynote (Issue 4 96) which arrived today (in fine shape, by the way) here's my 2 cents worth on the subject.

There are other equally valid answers, I am sure, but this is from my own experience on the subject.

Many of the new rigs available today have "QSK capability"; a check of the ads indicates at least half claim to operate QSK. In actual practice, checking the keying photos published in QST shows that many of them truncate every element they send. Since this is a function of a time constant in the keying circuit, both dits and dahs are chopped by the same amount. So, an unnaturally short dit gets sent out over the air (3-1=2, 9-1=8; you see what I mean).

The weight control on a keyer can compensate for this if it's correctly used. Of course the control must be reset every time an operator changes speed, but if the dit is lengthened (or the dah's shortened) by the right amount it'll compensate for the distortion the rig introduces, and restore the correct proportions.

This is a control that must be used with a great deal of care to avoid causing more mischief than it prevents. An analogy I use is the idiot with a pepper shaker. A little makes food taste good so a lot will make it taste wonderful! 73, Bill Carrigan **K3DC** Fists # 1902"
From Fred **NY2V**:

Weighting, first of all, affects both dits and dahs. The heavier the weighting, the less space between these bits. Heavy weighting is needed with electronic-keying rigs like the TS-440S in full QSK, since the rig badly truncates the leading edge of all keyed inputs

(so badly that the rig sounds terrible on full QSK when using a bug, requiring one to revert to semi-break-in). Many hams don't know this since they have never listened to their own signal on a separate receiver, or have not been told of their choppy sending. From experience, it is necessary to weight the characters so closely together that they almost run together when using a TS-440S on semi-break-in, but sound just fine when using full QSK.

Most keyers sound a bit choppy at slow speeds when using standard weighting. Increase it. At speeds of 25 WPM and above, it is desirable to lighten the weighting to improve articulation, so decrease it. Some keyers such as the better ones from Ten-Tec allow you to tailor the weighting based on this principle, so no change need be made as you speed up or slow down. Few rigs measure up to the Ten-Tec in terms of full-QSK response time. In that sense, I miss owning a Ten-Tec. While on the topic, spotting on rigs like the TS-440S is a royal pain. I have found this to work best (it disables use of the notch filter). Get a separate receiver on the air. Now go to 10MHz and set up to transmit from the TS-440S into a dummy load. Find WWV on the separate receiver. Transmit and match the TS-440S signal exactly to wwv. Tune around and get it right. Now, switch to an antenna on your TS-440S. Listen to the WWV CW note. That is THE note you listen for when zero-beating. Punch on the notch filter and adjust the notch to about 3 or so - at some point in that region it will notch WWV by a good 20dB. In the future, do NOT move the notch filter knob. To zero beat any CW station, just punch on the notch and tune for the most weakened note. The tone will become familiar in time. All this due to no spotting arrangement... and furthermore, my TS-440S neither transmits with the offset stated in the manual, nor has a sidetone with the same note as the offset. . . and neither are adjustable. The FSK mode will permit zero beating but takes a strong received signal to do so. Other Kenwoods differ (some permit using the TUNE button, but not the 4405).

From other points of view, the Kenwood is absolutely superb and a joy to use, considering its relatively low cost compared to the Paragon, which costs twice as much and doesn't even have a fan in it. The TS-440 and 450 series are, according to a survey I have been taking, the most-used rigs, worldwide, on the digital modes. Use one awhile and you will see why.

How do you calibrate the speed knob on a keyer? The PARIS method works fine. I use the SUMSUE method, since SUMSUE is easier to send than PARIS. What you do is send SUMSUESUMSUESUMSUE-SUMSUESUMSUE (that's five of them). Clock how long it takes to send five. The following chart will very accurately tell you the speed:

Time for 5 SUMSUEs	SPEED
60 seconds	5wpm
40 seconds	7.5 wpm
30 seconds	10 wpm
20 seconds	15wpm
15 seconds	20 wpm
12 seconds	25 wpm
10 seconds	30 wpm
6.5 seconds	45 wpm

This table from '73' magazine, Nov 1978 pg.37

73 de Fred NY2V

ABBREVIATIONS

These are in response to Richard KA1ZQR's question about abbreviations:

Mike **AE4JG** says: The term PL represents PRIVATE LINE, a system developed by Motorola. This system imposes a sub audible tone on the primary frequency resulting in a Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS).

From Jim **WE6V**: The abbreviation AGCQ-KL stands for "Arbeitsgemeinschaft CW" which they render "Activity Group Telegraphy". The subscription address is: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Telegrafie AGCW-DL D-69123 Heidelberg, Postbank Ludwigshafen BLZ 545 100 67. Konto 95 162-678

Annual dues are DM 15 and there is a registration fee of DM 10.

I believe DIG means Diplom-interessen Gruppe and can be reached thru the DARC.

From Don **W7GB**:

The Q signal ATB means "I do not agree with your counting of words; I will repeat the first letter or digit of each group." We use this one occasionally in traffic handling.

For an exclamation point we've been using - - - . here for several years. If I said "Wx hr is cold!!" and I want to really emphasize the cold with "!!!", I'll send "cold - - - . - - - ." W7JG and O are on the WA State CW Net (WSN) and are both Wash State University alumni. Whenever the Cougars have done very well, Del will get on there & send GO COUGS - - - . - - - . like in GO COUGS!!

One signal we've been trying to promote is the one for a dash or hyphen for use in hyphenated words. The official sign is - . . . - and is much easier to use than sending "talk dash in". Whenever I use the sign for a hyphen it usually draws a so we're not having much luck with this promotion!"

Mexico

George **XE1/KG8DA** in Mexico now has an 80 meter dipole up and is looking for FISTS, and will be checking into the Slow Traffic Net when he has the time. He and his wife Jerreth are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month!! George was pleasantly surprised when Jerreth suggested they get a solar panel and charge controller for their mutual anniversary gift. Congrats George and Jerreth and hope to hear you on 40 meters with your new rig and dipole soon!

Sticker Dispenser Hint

Sam **WB5ZJN** uses the FISTS stickers on his ham correspondence and QSL cards, and is surprised at how many responses this creates. He's discovered a good way to store and dispense the stickers. Cut a 1/64" vertical slot on the side of an empty 35 mm plastic film container. He then cuts the stickers in strips and makes them up into rolls like postage stamp rolls, drops them into the container and feeds the end of the stickers out through the slot! FB Sam, thanks and nice to meet you in Dayton!

From Rick **AA0NR**

Rick writes: "Just a note to let you know how much I have enjoyed my first year with FISTS. I have met a bunch of FB ops and made some good friends. One of the neatest things about HF CW is running into hams with whom you have had contact earlier. It doesn't matter that it's been over a year or two, seems like the ragchew just picks up where it left off! I've enjoyed all the articles written by FISTS member in past Keynotes. Kudos on the photo pages! It's really fun to put a face with the FISTS. I also recommend to all FISTS members that they make photocopies of the membership application form and include one with their QSLs. I have been doing this for several months now and take pride in seeing my call listed as sponsor for new members. I have to agree with Pete **K8OUA**. There is a need for a PAG (Political Action Group). Our "archaic" mode of communication is under scrutiny now as our tiny slice of spectrum is much more valuable than in years past. I can see the bumper stickers on all the cars with funny antennae (e.g. "When keys are outlawed, only outlaws will own keys") "I will give up my key when they pry my cold dead fingers from the paddles". Thanks Rick - hope you got the 14 points you needed for the Century Award in the Sprint!

SUNDAY 40 METER QSO PARTY

The Sunday 40 meter net has been meeting with considerable difficulty. Lots of static crashes, foreign SSB QRM, and the long skip have been hard to work around. Bill **W9ALM** has been doing some research on behalf of the net and has determined that 7.058 is a bad frequency for the net (Code practice, QRP beacon stn, foreign phone QRM.) and 2400z is a bad time (long skip, static crashes, foreign phone, code practice, QRP beacon station.)

He suggests that the clearest frequency in that part of the band is 7.068 and the best conditions are at 2100z (5 p.m EDT) He writes "Please don't take my word for it, listen yourself and see if you agree. I have had some super QSOs on 7.068 at that time of day, and I never heard another sound from anyone or anything. There might be a weak packet now and then, but usually a kc or 2 higher and it didn't bother me. (Think RTTY and packet try to stay between 7.070 and 7100). How about:

FISTS CW Roundtable (ragchew net)

Saturday 2100z 7.068 MHz

FISTS QSO Party

Sunday 2100z (Follows the 20 mtr QSO Party)
7.068MH

Check it out. See what others think."

SO! What do you think? Let's do some experimenting with times/frequencies and see if we can find one or two that are halfway decent. Hopefully as the sunspot numbers improve, the net condx will too!

Sunday QSO Party is now Century Award Net

Scott **KE3NV** has determined that the majority want a Century Award net where you can make quick contacts valid toward your FISTS Century Award. The biggest complaint was people were tired of waiting for their turn while others ragchewed. This new set-up should take care of this "problem", altho you should be patient, because if there is a big group you will still end up waiting a bit for your turn. Scott is open to suggestions, as always, so let him know what you think after giving this a try for a few weeks. Maybe starting the net an hour earlier would help, since fading band conditions seem to be a big frustration factor?

Scott Sez: "I have finally decided to change the format of the FISTS Net. Everyone who replied to my letter in the Keynote has asked to speed up the net. The net will now be called the Century Award Net. I promise to keep my code speed down so everyone can copy. Send PSE QRS if you need someone to slow down.

I will call "CQ FISTS CAN (Century Award Net) CQ FISTS CAN QNI. Then people send their callsign. I will return the callsign and ask him/her to AS (wait). When everyone is checked in, I will send the list as received and follow in that order. Here is an example of the new format to follow after the check-ins:

AA3DU YOUR TURN MIKE de KE3NV

THANKS SCOTT, I WILL CALL N3PM DE AA3DU

(N3PM HEARS AA3DU AND RETURNS HIS CALL WITH A SIGNAL REPORT/QTH/NAME/FISTS NUMBER) for example:

AA3DU DE N3PM UR 599 IN MD MY NAME IS JOE
FISTS NR IS 1298 TNKS ES 73 DE N3PM

TKS JOE UR 589 IN ODENTON MD. NAME IS MIKE ES
MY FISTS NR 1400. TKS QSO 73 BACK TO KE3NV DE
AA3DU

This will give many more people a chance to meet new FISTS, and then during the week, ragchew with their new friends. I sure hope this works out."

CHECK-INS:

4/14: Typical poor conditions, extreme QSB and weak signals - nobody could hear each other: AA3DU, W4JTU, VE5RD, AA0NR, AE3O?

4/21: Weak signals! Some checked in and never heard from again. Lots of QSB: W4JTU, N4VEF, VE5RD, AA3DU, VY2RB, AB2AU, N8FU, N7CFA, WO8E

4/28: Heard G0MWU at 1900Z. Got QSO with N4VEF for first time in months! HI. Lots of RTTY QRM, Lots of QSB: N4VEF, W4TTU, AA0NR, AA3DU, AE4MG, N8UJZ, N2YVF, G0UEE, KB2HZO, G0MWU

5/5: Very very very bad QSB, lots of QRM from county hunters contest: VY2RB, NP2DJ, W4JTU, DJ7AK, N2YVF, G0MWU, KC4UUG, WP2T

5/12: Bandy very quiet, not many stations on the air. QRM from RTTY stations was very bad! I guess everyone was at Mothers Day dinner: KE4UAQ, G0MWU, W3ERU, N3PM, NU2G.

Scotts eye operation (radial keratotomy) went very smoothly and painlessly and he was able to see the very next day!

CW PRACTICE FREWARE

Art KC7IG:

During the past three months, I have been working on a suite of DOS programs intended primarily for amateurs who have passed all the code exams and want to improve their CW operating skills. The executable and text files in EXTRAPLUS are used to create files for input to code-training software similar to GGTE's Morse Tutor Gold (MTG). For those who lack this sort of software, a very unsophisticated program has been provided to transmit these files through the computer speaker. Amateurs who have not reached the 20 WPM level and have access to MTG-like software will find EXTRAPLUS a useful tool in their efforts to upgrade. EXTRAPLUS is Freeware and may be distributed freely.

EXTRAPLUS is currently available for download on the Internet in the compressed file XTAPLSO1.ZIP.

The URL is: <ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/hamradio/dos/theory-and-morse/>

With a windows sockets FTP program like WS_FTP use the host name "oak.oakland.ed" and a userid of "anonymous". Your EMAIL address is the password and an initial directory of /pub/hamradio/dos/theory-and-morse/ will get you to the file. Please contact my YF Ruth N7DEN, if you have any questions on this. We "live" at the same email address.

How long it will be there is anybody's guess. If you'd like to look it over, I recommend that you download it at your earliest convenience.

73 de Art, KC7IG

A Different Opinion

From Bill WA9ALM:

You probably won't want to hear this, but I must be honest with you. This is a new age we are living in. Even though I am 70, I am accepting the fact that it is a computer age. So, in my opinion, if a perspective ham only wants to operate phone, packet, etc. and isn't interested in our "old fashioned" CW, so be it. Let them pass a test which covers their mode desires and get "on the air" in the way that turns them on. I love CW but don't expect everyone to love it or need it. Example, I have a friend who I grew up with. He just can't learn the code. So why not encourage him to enjoy HIS love...packet and a little 2 meter FM?

So don't sign me up for the Political Action Group. It's just possible that the FCC is thinking more into the future than we are. CW forever, but not as a requirement.

FISTS NET ON 30 METERS RESPONSE

This is in response to N4VEF's inquiry about a FISTS on 30 meters. From Don W7GB: According to the 1995-96 ARRL Net Directory there are two nets on 30 meters who have registered with ARRL:

Fleet Radio Unit Pacific meets on 10.120 Tues & Sat at 1400Z Summer, 1500Z Winter. Net manager is WGRHS

Northwest ORP Club meets on 10.123 Tuesdays at 0200Z Summer, 0300Z Winter. Net manager is N7MFB

I see no problem setting up a 30 meter FISTS net. 10.120 Khz looks like a good bet, as long as it's not on Tuesday or Saturday at 1400Z!

Incidentally, I see no FISTS nets listed anywhere in the ARRL Net Directory. Net re-registration for inclusion in the Net Directory is on even years. As STM for E. Washington I should be receiving materials from ARRL to re-register our nets within the next month or so. I do the HF nets for the state and Phil, KD7ME, W. Wash. STM does the VHF nets.

Here's a copy of the FSD-85 net registration form. If you'd like to have the FISTS nets included in the ARRL Net Directory, have the FISTS net managers send off to ARRL for FSD-85. If it goes like in '94, the forms will be due at ARRL by late Summer or early Fall. I try to get mine in by early July. In October ARRL sends me a computer printout for me to peruse & make sure all is okay. The Net Directory goes to press sometime late in the year.

Mike KE2NT also voices his support for a 30 meter net. He notes that people get cranky about hams contesting on 30 meters, but he thought that a regularly scheduled meeting of FISTS would be acceptable.

If anyone wants to volunteer to be NCS and set up a time/frequency, let me know and I'll be happy to put it in the Keynote. And I'm including a copy of the Net Registration form Don sent to me, so the net managers of the existing nets can send it in if they want their nets in the ARRL directory (send it to the ARRL, not to me, please!).

NEW and IMPROVED COLLINS COLLECTOR ASSOCIATION

Bill KB8NTE tells me the old Collins Collector group has folded. But a new Association has started up to keep the ball rolling. They are planning on publishing four newsletters (the Signal) in 1996 and are committed to taking small but determined steps to bring the group back to support the preservation and continued use of Collins amateur radio equipment. They also have a net each Sunday at 2000Z on 14.263MHz. To join the Assoc, send annual dues of \$15 to PO Box 840924 Pembroke Pines, FL 33084-0924. With your paid dues you will receive a membership certificate.

From Across The Pond GREETINGS

My departure for the US this month has left me with a problem regarding this issue. Under normal circumstances, I would not have printed a letter this month but the late timing of the AGM has left me with a report which I am anxious to get rid of pdq.

Spring has most definitely sprung. The trees are now clothed in sparkling new leaf, the air is filled with the cheerful sounds of the tits, grassy areas are bespeckled with the white of daisies and this month I saw my first bee.

So many of you have commented upon the instability of the bands during the past few weeks. It is hard to explain why 14058 and much of the band below it is unpopulated whilst some thoughtless berk is running Amtor or something on 14057 which always seems to read on the meter. 80m has been opening quite regularly during the evening for inter-G and also Europe with good signals all round and I am told that 160m has become very popular. It is a shame that my W3DZZ is so indifferent on that band but I get reports like 439 from stations who are shifting the LEDs to S9 plus. When I get this lunatic on my roof again, I am going to get him to fix an indeterminate length of wire to the stack with an insulator so that I can play around with a remote end-fed for top band.

The latest tally my friends is 1425 FISTS and by the time you read this it will have been augmented by many more. Dayton in previous years has produced a steadily increasing number of new members and if things follow the trend, we can expect anything from 50 to 200 new members. I like to think that when I am there, the members recruited are largely due to my devastating good looks and wit though it is possible that the undoubted charms of Nancy and Irene may play some small part. Nuff said.

The local watering hole held a Kareoke night over Easter and the cacophony of wails, screeches and other nondescript animal like cries was hard to live with. I sometimes regret the clean installation at this QTH... t'would have been nice to introduce a few dB of cw over that disgraceful racket. Hi.

Our Alex continues to pound out slow stuff on 80m twice weekly and listening to this the other evening I discovered several slow QSOs on either side of him so his presence is encouraging activity off frequency. We can all play our part in this by regular activity. Don't expect you to spend hours on the bands each evening but if your presence is noted only one evening per week for half an hour or so at a regular time it will reap dividends.

For our ITALIAN members. I have a request here from Gloria, G3VUN to send an application form to a YL near Venice but she has no address and I do not have an international call book so, if any of you can dig up the address of IK3UAH (Wilma) I would be most obliged. Gloria's letter head (per the Medway AR and

Transmitting Society) is a confusion of stickers (BY-LARA), G-QRP, FISTS and other info in testament to her activity. Nice to hear from you Petal.

ANNIVERSARY

September 1997 will mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the club and I would like to mark the occasion by something special. The question was tossed into the arena at the AGM and one suggestion was a special event station. We are fortunate in that a caravan which has been modified for radio work is available to us courtesy of G2AKK but if this idea does surface, I will not be able to get involved to any great degree because of domestic restraints. This caravan incidentally was transferred to the Darwen ARC for the peppercorn sum of one penny. Can I leave you with the problem people. A "sprint" type contest would be nice of course but (for the umpteenth time) I need someone to run the thing. We are sadly in need of a contest manager or small group to represent an independent contest committee within the club. Honestly, I will not stick my oar in at all and the committee will be free to devise any contests which they can dream up. If you have spare time and have been involved in contest organising or, indeed, can call upon the experience of others who can offer guidance, please give it some consideration and drop me a line.

ODDS 'N ENDS

Tammy and I were on our morning walk about and during the night, there had been rain which meant that the footpath was strewn with dozens of squirming worms which had strayed from the grassed area. As we turned a bend in the road, we were confronted by a couple of hen blackbirds squabbling over possession of a worm. What was so special about this particular creature I know not but all around them were worms for the taking. Do we have similar possessive feelings towards 14058? I often find three or more members trying to conduct QSOs on the same spot whilst below them is a desert of unpopulated band space. 14058 is nothing more than a general meeting point. It represents (or should represent) the upper limit for our activities. If it is busy then drift down a little to find some free space.

Where have all the FISTS gone? This is a question frequently asked which I find inexplicable since I can virtually guarantee to find several in any operating session. In the evenings, 80m often produces a string of members one after the other and, incidentally, I am delighted with the patience shown by most who simply sit on the side reading the mail until the QSO is finished. As the year progresses we hope that 40m returns to its own as a good daytime substitute for 80m. At the present moment it is populated largely by stations in mid to long distance Europe due to the skip conditions. 30m also is a happy hunting ground for many of our members with 10.128 being the low figure from which to work up from. Now I must confess

that I rarely venture onto that band and perhaps we should all give it a little more attention. During a world wide contest, it is a haven of sanity for many and a similarly neglected lump of the spectrum is 17m which has on occasions produced some juicy activity.

The tea man cometh! A small company up in Geordie land (Newcastle upon Tyne) has constructed a spiders web of customers such as myself who appreciate good tea. They deliver door to door for some hundred miles around and every other Monday I know that the doorbell is going to ring and my usual order will be to hand. This week found the caller in mid QSO and I put the receiver on speaker whilst I made a mad dash to the door. The usual response under such circumstances is "What's that strange noise?" but on this occasion, the young man said "Oh - Morse Code" which quite delighted me. I invited him in whilst I finished the QSO and it transpired that he was captivated by the code when a member of the ATC (Air Training Corps) as a small boy. The 22 wpm he heard was beyond his span but at least he recognised the "noise" for what it was and so impressed was he with the shack that I think we have found another convert. With his partner waiting in the van, he could spend little time with me but his previous understanding of Ham Radio was in truth CB so I unloaded a few odd bits of printed matter on him. I look forward to his next visit in the hope that he will take this further.

WANTED

Our Wally, G3GXQ is on the hunt for a Hallicrafters SX101 or SX100. There used to be lots of 'em knocking around mate but perhaps the passage of time has become distorted for me and it may have been a decade ago.

COMPUTERS (AGAIN)

G4WWQ, Dave, asked for the xbase version of the listing and this has been installed and is accessible via Quattro Pro. I also sent the ham log but Dave implies that the kind of interference he is getting from his computer on HF and VHF/UHF prohibits its installation anywhere near the rig. There is absolutely no way this should happen on a modern computer. It should be in an all-steel housing and the PSU and chassis should offer very effective screening from noise. It could be that it is the VDU and not the Escom that is at fault and if Dave can confirm that the computer still dishes out sounds of frying bacon with the VDU out of commission then there will be no other course than to brand the Escom as a bad buy.

I sometimes run two computers here. A 486 which needs "looking at" but which drives the scanner and the main P90 and, even with both running, there is nothing at all worth noting coming through LF, HF or on 2m. Furthermore, I have done no work on either of 'em so the suppression is built in. Caveat Emptor!

BEGINNERS KORNER

Key weighting has come up frequently in the past. If you have one of those keyers which permit you to enter a value to represent the weighting then 30% (or more properly 33%) should be entered but most such keyers are factory set to this value so you should have no need to touch it. For a home brew keyer or one without these facilities, possibly the easiest way to guesstimate will be to connect the output to a VOM set to a medium (linear) range of resistance and press the dot key at about 20 wpm. This should bring the needle to around the half way mark and once you have altered the weighting to enable this then you have a pretty good starting point. Remember that you can modify the weighting so that the code sounds terrible with clipped dots and exaggerated dashes or even so that there is little discernable difference between the two so a little experimenting here should point you in the right direction. When you get it sounding right, leave it well alone. There is no point in changing the weighting

unless you intend operating in excess of 35 wpm or so when a modest increase in dash over dot tends to make readability a little easier.

One of the chief causes of erratic sending with a straight key is the gap v tension setting. Setting the gap too close will generally demand an increase in tension whilst too wide a gap will cause you to rapidly tire. Once again, personal preferences enter the equation but as before, when you find the ideal set up, leave well alone. Remember that it is not only the spring which is creating a balance. The spring is only one small part of a complicated system involving many springs - the ones in your fingers, wrist, forearm etc. Don't grab hold of the knob as if you were trying to throttle it because this will reduce the effect which your own "springs" have upon control. Try to relax your fingers a little after each character which will not only reduce a tendency to run characters together but will also impart the "correct" feeling. Were I to sit with someone when they were sending then I could perhaps make a fair guess as to what they were doing wrong but diagnosis from a distance is near impossible

. The best guide is that keying should not be uncomfortable or taxing. Above all, limit your speed. We all have physical restrictions on how fast we can operate a straight key (my own approximates to 20 wpm at 68 years of age compared with perhaps 28 or even greater when I was a heck of a lot younger) so recognise these limitations and no matter how slick the other guy is, keep to your own maximum.



FINALE

For the time I am in the States, GX0IPX will be /P via GOJWB. It still counts for 3 points and Bill will be found mainly on 80m due to the fact that he lives in a hole in the ground. Mayhap HF will open for him. Hi.

73/88. Have fun and stay sober de Geo

June 1996

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Century Award Net on 14.058 at 2000Z QSO Parties 7.058 at 2300Z	3	4 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	5 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	6 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	7	1
9 Century Award Net on 14.058 at 2000Z QSO Parties 7.058 at 2300Z	10	11 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	12 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	13 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	14	15
16 Century Award Net on 14.058 at 2000Z QSO Parties 7.058 at 2300Z	17	18 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	19 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	20 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	21	22  Field Day
23  Field Day	24	25 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	26 Slow Ragchewing Group W8BI 8pm EDT 3.720	27 Slow traffic net 9pm EDT 3.682	28	29
30 Century Award Net on 14.058 at 2000Z QSO Parties 7.058 at 2300Z						

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			